

BRIEF FOR DOC WEB SITE: INDIANA'S OFFENDER REINTEGRATION PROJECT

In June 2003, the Indiana Department of Correction was selected as one of six states by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to participate in the "Transition from Prison to Community Initiative" (TPCI). Utilizing the TPCI model, Indiana is in the process of developing the "Indiana Offender Reintegration Project." The Project participants shall reform current practices to meet the unfulfilled needs of offenders returning to Indiana's communities. The Project will be Indiana-specific by addressing the specific strengths of Indiana's offenders, the available opportunities, and Indiana's environment to increase the successful community reentry of these individuals.

The model utilizes evidence-based practices to work with offenders upon admission to prison to develop reentry plans that cover the periods of confinement, community supervision and aftercare. These reentry plans shall ensure continuity as offenders move through the stages of the process, and adapt to changing conditions, needs, and achievements. The reentry plan utilizes empirically-based risk assessment tools to identify offenders' "static" and "dynamic" risk factors. The goal is to link offenders to programs and services that reduce their dynamic risk factors over time.

Indiana will work to strengthen the capacity of its communities to serve released offenders. To accomplish the goals of the model, partnerships involving state and local criminal justice and human services agencies, local and neighborhood organizations, faith-based groups, crime victims, and the general public in Indiana's communities will be formed.

Indiana will first compare its current reentry practices to the TPCI model, then identify improvement strategies, assign implementation responsibilities to partnering agencies, and set priorities and timelines.

For more information on Indiana Offender Reintegration Project, contact Diane Mains with the Indiana Department of Correction by telephone at 317-232-5967 or via email at dmains@coa.doc.state.in.us. For more information on the TPCI model, access NIC's web site at www.nicic.org.